

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 02162 221738Z

72

ACTION AF-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2162

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TAGS: PINT, BGEN, LI

SUBJECT: STEPHEN TOLBERT VS. GABRIEL DOE; ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE  
CONTINUING SAGA OF THE TOLBERTS

REF: MONROVIA A-20 OF 3/24/75 (AND PREVIOUS)

1. THOUGH HARDLY RECOVERED FROM THE TIDE OF ADVERSE PUBLIC OPINION  
SET IN MOTION BY THE ALBERT PORTE AFFAIR (REFAIR), THE PRESIDENT'S  
BROTHER, FINANCE MINISTER STEPHEN A. TOLBERT AGAIN HAS PERMITTED  
HIS EMOTIONS TO OVERCOME HIS INTELLIGENCE. HE HAS NOW BECOME  
INVOLVED IN A VERY PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST GABRIEL DOE, ONE OF  
LIBERIA'S MORE OUTSTANDING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS. THIS TIME THE  
FEUD IS OVER A WOMAN.

2. MR. DOE, THE PROPRIETOR OF MONROVIA SUPPLIERS, INC. (SEE  
WTDR OF 1/16/75), IS A DYNAMIC AND SUCCESSFUL YOUNG LIBERIAN  
BUSINESSMAN. HIS FIRM HOLDS THE MACK TRUCK AGENCY AND WAS RECENTLY  
APPOINTED THE SOLE AGENT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. IN LIBERIA.  
IN ADDITION, MR. DOE HAS SUBSTANTIAL REAL ESTATE INTERESTS IN  
MONROVIA (INCLUDING TWO APARTMENT BUILDINGS BEING LEASED BY THE  
EMBASSY), AND IS A MAJOR SHAREHOLDER IN THE NATIONAL LOGGING  
CO., A TIMBER EXPORTER. THOUGH BOTH THE LOGGING COMPANY AND  
THE MACK TRUCK AGENCY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED ADVERSELY BY THE RECENT  
DOWNTURN IN THE WORLD LUMBER MARKET, MR. DOE'S GROWING BUSINESS  
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PAGE 02 MONROV 02162 221738Z

EMPIRE IS CONSIDERED SOUND AND HE HAS MAINTAINED A GOOD CREDIT

RATING. NOW, ALL IS BEING THREATENED BY THE VINDICTIVE FINANCE MINISTER.

3. STEPHEN TOLBERT IS A NOTORIOUS RAKE. RECENTLY MARRIED TO CARMENIA PIERRE, THE DAUGHTER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT (WITH WHOM HE HAD BEEN CARRYING ON AN AFFAIR OF SEVERAL YEARS STANDING WHILE MARRIED TO HIS PREVIOUS WIFE), HE STILL HAS A ROVING EYE. HE JOKED AT THE TIME OF HIS MOST RECENT MARRIAGE THAT QTE I CHANGE MY WIVES LIKE I CHANGE MY SHIRTS UNQTE. BUT, APPARENTLY, GIRL-FRIENDS ARE MORE PRECIOUS. WHEN ONE OF HIS CONQUESTS GAVE STEVE UP FOR GABRIEL DOE, AND THEN HAD THE TEMERITY TO MARRY HIS RIVAL, STEVE SAW RED. DESPITE ALL ADVICE TO THE CONTRARY, THE SPURNED FINANCE MINISTER IS USING THE FULL FORCE OF HIS POSITION IN AN EFFORT TO RUIN DOE.

4. THE FIRST STEP IN STEVE'S CAMPAIGN WAS TO HAVE THE FINANCE MINISTRY SEIZE SOME TRUCKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO DOE, BUT WHICH DOE (AND THE BANK OF LIBERIA--HIS BACKER) HAD PLANNED TO SELL TO FOREIGN MINISTER C. CECIL DENNIS, JR. MINISTER DENNIS--ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS FOR STEVE'S MESURADO GROUP OF COMPANIES; THE OTHER BEING MINISTER OF JUSTICE LAWRENCE A. MORGAN--PLANNED TO USE THE TRUCKS TO HAUL GASOLINE TO HIS MURSOBI CHAIN OF GASOLINE STATIONS. STEVE CONTENTED THAT, SINCE THE TRUCKS HAD BEEN IMPORTED DUTY FREE FOR USE IN THE LOGGING INDUSTRY AND (BECAUSE THE INDUSTRY IS DEPRESSED) ARE NOT NOW BEING USED FOR THAT PURPOSE, THEY ARE CONTRABAND. THE IRONIC THING IS THAT THE TRUCKS WERE BEING SOLD SO AS TO PERMIT DOE TO REDUCE HIS INDEBTEDNESS TO THE BANK OF LIBERIA, IN WHICH PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND HIS BROTHER, STEVE, ARE MAJOR STOCKHOLDERS. THE AFFAIR BECOMES EVEN MORE CONVOLUTED SINCE C. CECIL DENNIS, JR. (APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO REPRESENT PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS) IS PRESIDENT OF THE BANK OF LIBERIA, AND STEVE'S DAUGHTER, STEPHENETTE KING, IS A BOARD MEMBER, APPOINTED TO REPRESENT HIM.

5. DOE IS NOW IN THE U.S., WHERE IT IS PRESUMED THAT HE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH MACK, G.E., AND CHEMICAL BANK OF NEW YORK (WHICH HAS MINORITY INTEREST IN BUT MANAGES BANK OF LIBERIA). HOWEVER, IF DEPT. OR COMMERCE SHOULD RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MONROV 02162 221738Z

REPUTABLE AMERICAN FIRMS, IT MAY BE ADVISABLE TO LET THEM KNOW THAT TOLBERT HAS TAKEN OUT DOE-HUNTING LICENSE.  
MANFULL

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## Message Attributes

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